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REMARKS

Claims 51-93 are pending in the instant application. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments presented above and the remarks presented below is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicates that reference C10 of the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 14, 2003, has not been reviewed. Applicants have included a copy of reference C10 herewith, and respectfully request review of the reference.

35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 71 and 72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Claim 71 is indefinite due to its dependency from Claim 70. In addition, the Examiner asserts that Claim 72 lacks antecedent basis in its recital of "n is \geq 6." In light of the amendments, presented above, Applicants submit that the claims are sufficiently definite and thus withdrawal of the pending rejections under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claim 87 stands objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 88. In light of the above amendment, canceling Claim 88, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 51-58, 60-62, 64-73, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85-89 and 93 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Wohlstadter et al., US Patent No. 6,066,448 ("Wohlstadter"). Wohlstadter is a continuation-in-part of USSN 08/402,076, filed March 10, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of USSN 08/402,277, also filed March 10, 1995. Accordingly, the earliest possible priority date available for the disclosure in Wohlstadter is March 10, 1995.

In response to the rejection, Applicants are submitting herein an unsigned Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 by the inventors, Thomas J. Meade and Jon F. Kayyem, referencing experiments reflected in laboratory notebooks dated prior to March 10, 1995. A signed copy of the declaration will be forwarded as soon as possible. The declaration outlines that the invention was completed in this country prior to March 10, 1995. Accordingly, Wohlstadter is not a prior art reference, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC § 102(e).

35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 59, 63, 81, 84 and 85 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wohlstadter in view of Kayyem et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,096,273 (Kayyem).

As discussed above, Wohlstader is not a prior art reference, and thus cannot be combined with Kayyem as described by the Examiner when making the instant rejections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal the rejections under 35 USC 103(a).

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and early notification to that effect is respectfully requested. Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned attorney at (415) 781-1989.

Respectfully submitted, DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 3400

San Francisco, California

94111-4187 (415) 781-1989 Robin M. Silva, Reg. No. 38,304 Filed under 37 CFR §1.34(a)

PATENT Attorney Docket No. A-64411-2 (468267-00067)/RMS/RMK/SPL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

MEADE, et al.

Serial No.: 09/921,645

Filed: August 3, 2001

For: Metallic Solid Supports Modified

with Nucleic Acids

Group No. 1637

Examiner: Strzelecka, Teresa, E.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Steve Lendaris

RATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.131 DECLA

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

We, Thomas J. Meade and Jon F. Kayyem hereby declare as follows:

- 1. We are the inventors on the above-identified patent application and are familiar with its contents. We have also reviewed the pending claims in this application.
- 2. We are familiar with the Office Action mailed on November 17, 2003 wherein claims 51-69, 71, 72, and 74-93 were rejected over Wohlstadter et al. (6,066,448) which has an earliest possible priority date of March 10, 1995.
- 3. All of the ideas detailed in the above-identified application were contemplated in this country prior to March 10, 1995. This is evidenced by the appended documents.
- One of the goals of the project that led to the filing of the parent application was 4. to create a surface comprising a self-assembled monolayer with single stranded nucleic acids attached(referred herein as probes), and then to answer three questions: first, whether a solution-based complementary strand would bind to the probe; second, would a complementary strand attached to an atomic force

- microscopy (AFM) tip bind to the probe, and if so; third, whether or not we could determin the force necessary to "tear apart" the duplex.
- The experiments started out with the synthesis of the monolayer portion using an HO-(CH₂)₁₆-OH to form a molecule with a protected sulfur group (for attachment to a gold surface) on one end, to which a phosphoramidited nucleic acid was attached. The experiments proceeded with the coating of a gold surface with this monolayer-forming material. A photolithographic mask, with 8 x 8 micron squares on it, was then used to cover the gold surface. The surface was then exposed to a photoactivated agent and a mercury arc lamp which resulted in the ablation nucleic acids from the squares not covered by the mask. We then added a fluorescent complement to the surface, and viewed it under a confocal microscope. This resulted in a pattern of "light", e.g. fluorescent, background, where the fluorescent solution based probes were found, and "dark" squares, where the surface-bound single stranded nucleic acid had been ablated off, and therefore no fluorescent probe was detected. A montage of several of these images, made over the course of the experiments, is attached as Exhibit A.
- 6. With regard to timing of these experiments, the documents attached as Exhibit B are pages from my notebook detailing the synthesis of some of the compounds used in these experiments. (Please note that all experiments not relevant to the present discussion have been redacted, as have all dates.) For example, page 136 documents the conversion of the HO-(CH₂)₁₆-OH molecule to the asymmetrical HO-(CH₂)₁₆-OAc needed for further reactions. The bottom of page 139 and the top of page 140 show the synthesis of the protected thiol-(CH₂)₁₆-OH molecule. the top of page 141 shows the reaction of the protected thiol-(CH₂)₁₆-OH molecule added to a phosphoramidite moiety. In conclusion, the invention was completed in this country prior to March 10, 1995.
- 7. We declare further that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that the making of willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such

willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date:	Thomas J. Meade
Date:	
	Jon F. Kayyem



EXHIBIT A

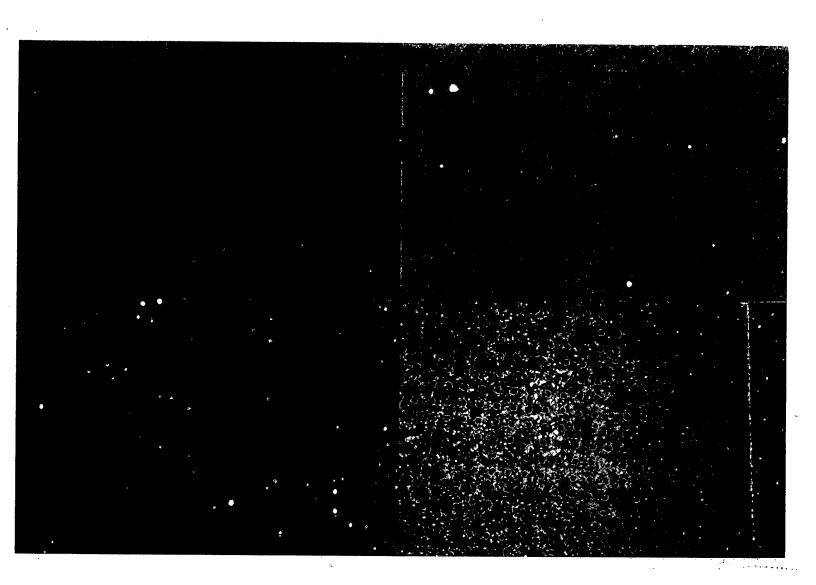
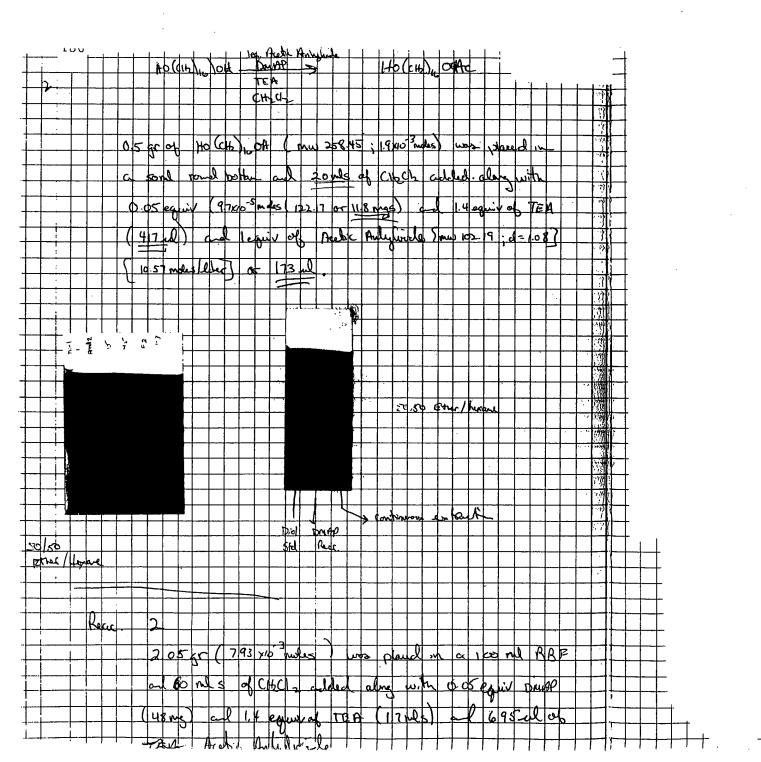




EXHIBIT B

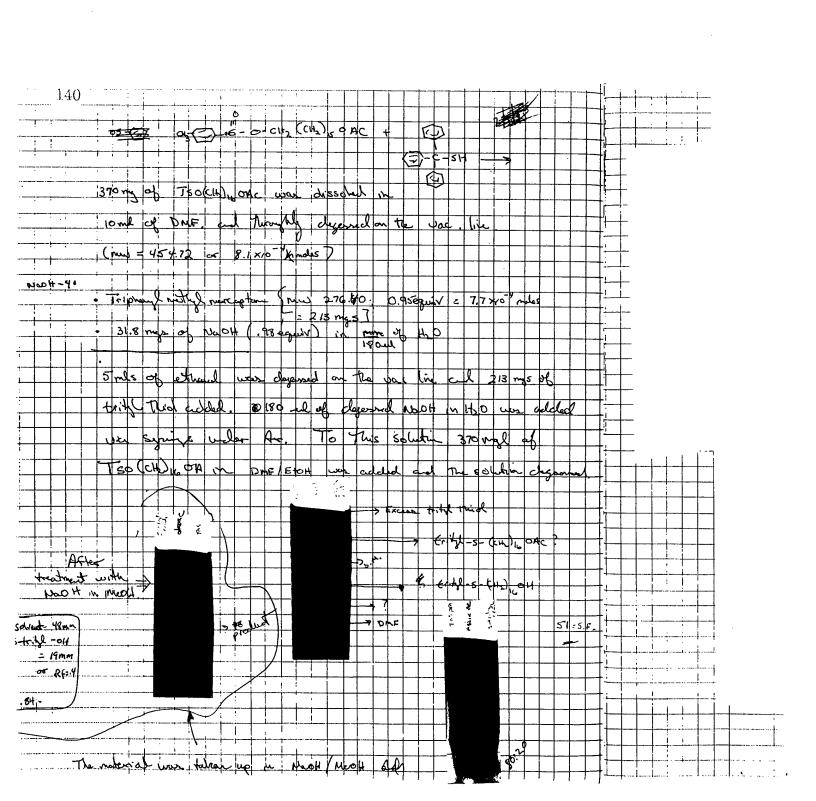


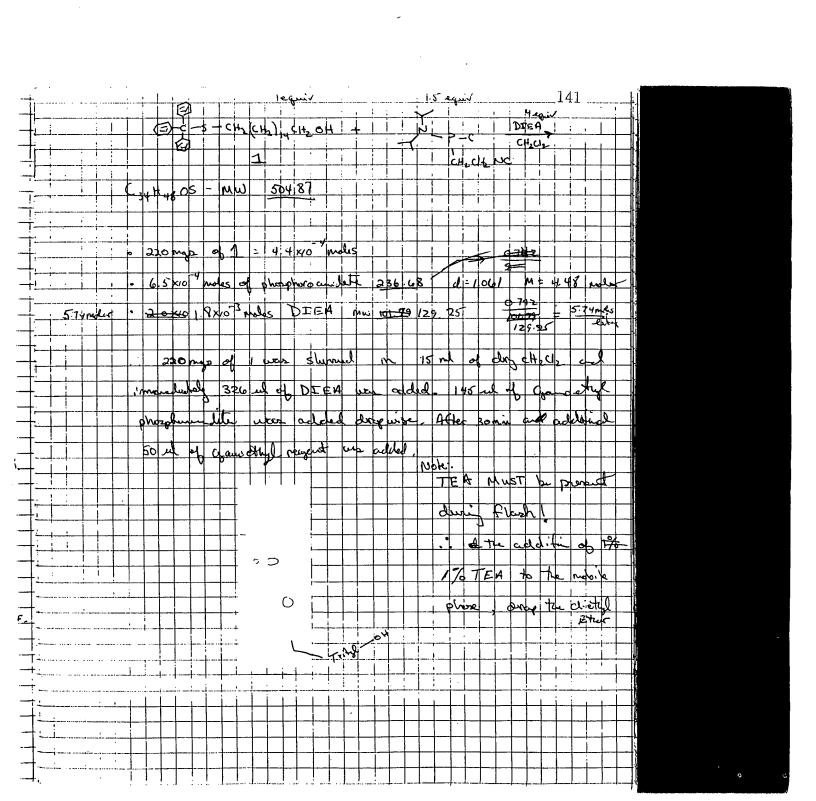
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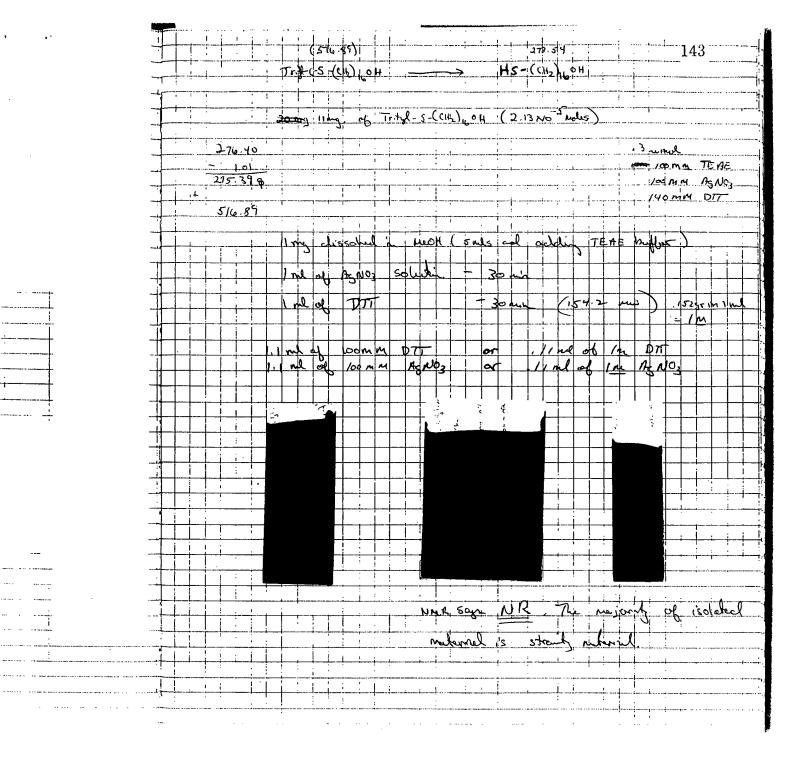
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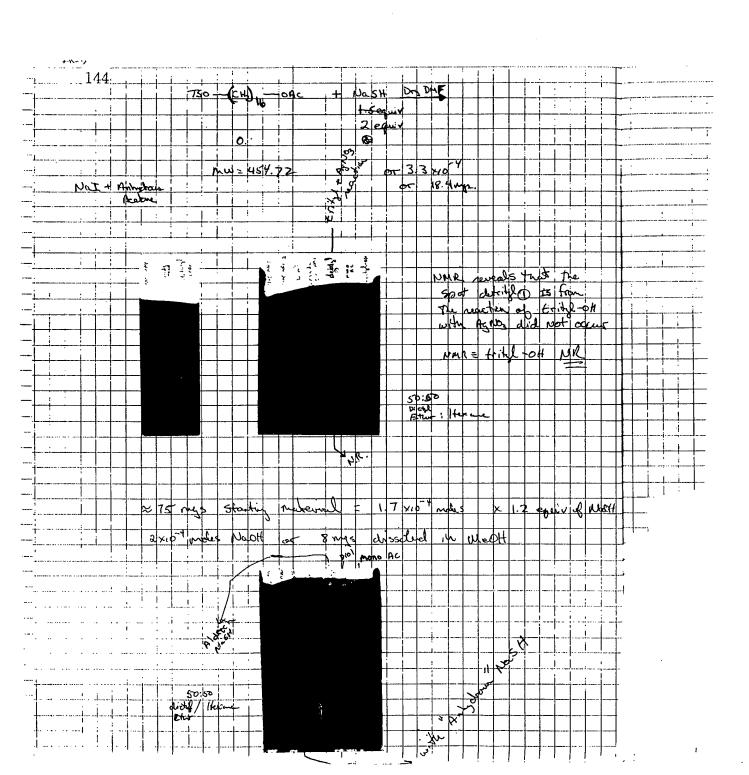




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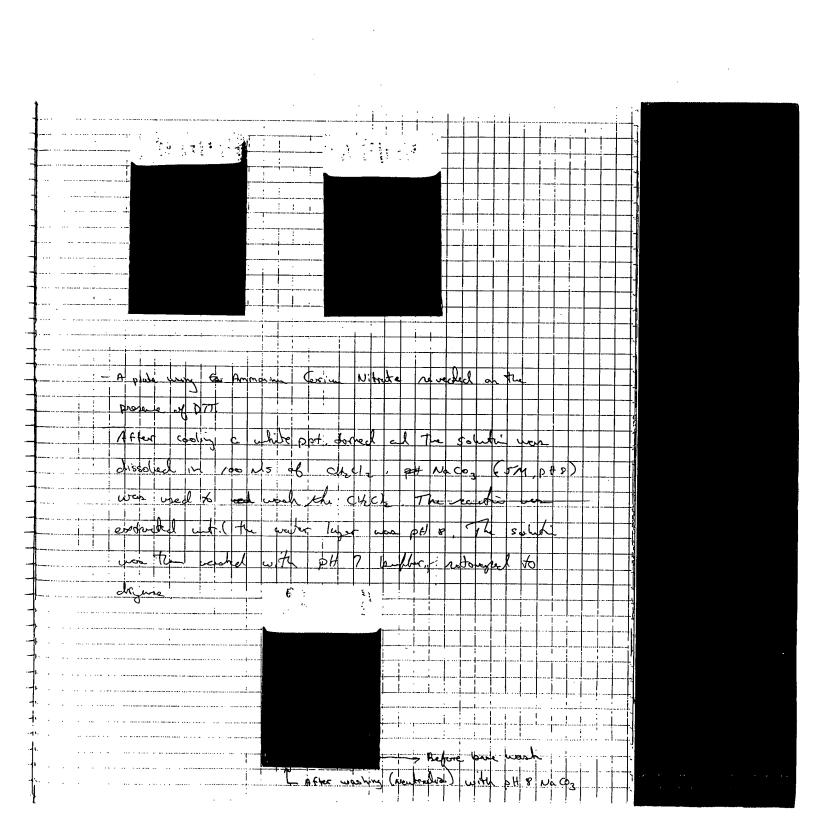


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